

17th August 2025



Berlin, in the middle of the night on the 13th August 1961, while most slept, others were hard at work. Come the morning the city was divided. Barbed wire separated East from West, families and loved ones. Hopes and dreams of freedom were shattered. The scale and scope of the wall created a great scar through the heart of the city. Yet, for some in the West it would become a tourist attraction. I remember looking out across the void between East and West at Checkpoint Charlie in the 1970s.

Today, around the world, new walls and barriers are being erected. But I'm always reminded by the Berlin Wall, that a wall that can keep people out can also keep people in.

This all leads me to reflect, not just on physical barriers, but also spiritual, especially that barrier between us and God – sin. It can hold us prisoner. Cut off from the freedom to be fully the people God created us to be. Isolated from the love and peace that a relationship with God can bring us. Rather like the Berlin Wall, we will find no way across by ourselves.

Today is a sad anniversary, for on this day in 1962, the terrible consequences of the Berlin Wall were revealed in the tragic death of a teenager, Peter Fechter. His attempt to cross over failed when border guards shot him. For about an hour he lay bleeding to death, no one would or could come to his aid. Onlookers could only watch. A stark warning that freedom can come at a terrible price. All attempts to find our own way back to God will not succeed.

The good news is that when we cry out for help, or if we feel spiritually separated, wounded even, our cries are not met with silence, we are not abandoned. For through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ the barrier of sin is broken: the wall has been torn down by grace and mercy. And as we are reminded in our services today, as we focus on the cross of Jesus, our freedom has been won at a terrible cost. His death, though tragic, was not a failure. For he won for us reconciliation with God, and we can have a new relationship with him as a loving Father.

Reconciliation lies at the heart of the Church's purpose.

It is our mission, our work, and our joy!

Rad



Please pray for...



Hazel Haskayne, Brian McClellan, John Panter, Mary Senior, Joe McPhee, Cherian George, Nita's grandson, Ben and Jude Niklas-Carter who is in intensive care at Shrewsbury hospital and her husband Charles Nicklas-Carter.

Please let the Church Office know if you would like your name added or removed from this list. The list will be routinely reviewed every few months.

A Message from Helen Sweet

On behalf of my daughter Clare and both grandchildren, I would like to thank all those who supported us in prayer during my son-in-law Alan Dean's lengthy illness and to all at St Mary's who have given and sent comforting messages of sympathy.

Shifnal & District Male Voice Choir Concert in aid of our organ fund

Saturday 23rd August at 7.00pm in church.



I am really looking forward to this concert and performing for you as a guest with the choir. Thank you everyone who has bought tickets. More will be available at the door. If you are available to help with welcoming or serving refreshments at this event, please sign the sheet at the Welcome desk. Thank you, Elaine

Refreshments

If you enjoy a coffee and nibbles on a Sunday morning after the 10.30 service, please consider joining our group of volunteers. Contact Pat Fox if you are interested.



Bring and Share



This week, Sunday 17th August at 38 Prospect Road, the home of Liz Barnes. This is to be a BBQ so please pray for good weather!

Burgers, sausages and bread provided, please bring anything else you would like to eat both savoury (salads) and sweet.

Services

Services are in St Mary's Church unless otherwise indicated.

9.00am BCP Holy Communion

10.30am CW Holy Communion

Readings Hebrews 11. 29-12.2; Luke 12.49-56

The 10.30 service will also be on Zoom.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85337124930?pwd=NFdMTzRMR2JXbXRoSctVRS9PSkZXdz09>

Meeting ID: 853 3712 4930 Password: 867888

Wednesday Morning Prayer 9.00am ZOOM

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89943278704?pwd=RytPQ3RmOG5yYlBpUWpoWWkxWGFEZz09>

Meeting ID: 899 4327 8704 Password: 730701

Thursday 10.00am BCP Holy Communion

Sunday Sermons

These are available on our website:

<https://www.stmarysmarketdrayton.org.uk/media>

Swap Shop

The next Swap Shop will be on

Saturday 6th September from

10.30 am in The Parish Rooms.

Donations will be gratefully received as well as helpers please.



Foodbank Items Needed



Stock Items urgently required:

Tinned Fruit; Long-life Fruit Juice; Jam; Men's / Ladies' Deodorant; Anti-bac spray/wipes; Shampoo / Conditioner.

We have plenty of:

Cereal; Pasta; Rice; Tea; Baked Beans; Custard.

The trolley at the back of church is now in use and donations are gratefully received.

Quiz Night St John's Ightfield

QUIZ NIGHT

ST JOHN'S CHURCH
is hosting a quiz night on Friday
29th August - 7pm for 7.30pm start.
An absolute bargain at £5 per head including
a pasta Bolognese supper in the interval.
To book a team in please contact Jill Poole at
jill.poole@amica.org.uk or on 01939 231726.

Staying in Touch

Please either leave a message or send an email and we will get back to you as soon as possible.

Church Administrator: Helen Hughes

Phone: 01630 653505

E-mail: stmarysmarketdrayton@gmail.com

Website: www.stmarysmarketdrayton.org.uk

Facebook: @StMarysMarketDrayton

Parish Rooms FB: @TheParishRoomsMD

Operations Manager: Elaine Cook

Phone: 07454 441943

E-mail: opsmanagerofstmarys@gmail.com

Vicar: Revd Catherine McBride

E-mail: vicarofstmarys@gmail.com

If you do not wish to continue to receive these newsletters, please let us know.

SHIFNAL & DISTRICT MALE VOICE CHOIR CONCERT



Join us to support
St Mary's Church
Organ Fund

shifnalmalevoicechoir@gmail.com

**Sat 23rd August
7pm**

Refreshments provided for
donations

Tickets: £10

St Mary's Church, Market
Drayton. TF9 1AD

Tickets available from Choir members,
Elaine Cook following Sunday services
or on 07454 441943
Or pay on the door